

# policy ANAPHYLAXIS

## RATIONALE

Anaphylaxis is an acute allergic reaction to certain food items and insect stings. The condition develops in approximately 1-2% of the population. The most common allergens are nuts, eggs, cow's milk and bee or other insect stings, and some medications.

Sunshine Primary School will follow Ministerial Order 706 and its associated guidelines. Sunshine PS believes that the safety and wellbeing of children who are at risk of anaphylaxis is a whole-of-community responsibility. Sunshine PS is committed to:

## AIMS

- providing, as far as practicable, a safe and healthy environment in which children at risk of anaphylaxis can participate equally in all aspects of the school's experiences.
- raising awareness about allergies and anaphylaxis amongst all community members. facilitating communication to ensure the safety and wellbeing of children at risk of anaphylaxis.
- actively involving the parents/guardians of each child at risk of anaphylaxis in assessing risks, developing risk minimisation strategies and management strategies for their child.
- ensuring each staff member and other relevant adults have adequate knowledge of allergies, anaphylaxis and emergency procedures.
- ensure that staff members respond appropriately to an anaphylactic reaction by initiating appropriate treatment, including completing the online and face to face training and competently administering an EpiPen®.

## IMPLEMENTATION

- Anaphylaxis is a severe and potentially life-threatening condition.
- Signs and symptoms of anaphylaxis include hives/rash, tingling in or around the mouth, abdominal pain, vomiting or diarrhoea, facial swelling, cough or wheeze, difficulty breathing or swallowing, loss of consciousness or collapse, or cessation of breathing.
- Anaphylaxis is best prevented by knowing and avoiding the allergens.
- The First Aid officer will ensure that an individual management plan is provided for any student who has been diagnosed by a medical practitioner as being at risk of anaphylaxis.
- The individual anaphylaxis management plan will be in place as soon as practicable after the student enrolls, and where possible before their first day of school.
- The plan will include an emergency procedures plan (ASCIA Action Plan), provided by the parent, that is signed by the medical practitioner, and sets out the emergency procedures to be taken in the event of an allergic reaction.

### **The individual anaphylaxis management plan will also set out the following:**

- Information about the diagnosis, including the type of allergy or allergies the student has (based on a diagnosis from a medical practitioner).
- Strategies to minimise the risk of exposure to allergens while the student is under the care or supervision of school staff, for in-school and out of school settings including camps and excursions.

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**The student's individual management plan will be reviewed, in consultation with the student's parents / carers:**

- annually, and as applicable,
- if the student's condition changes, or
- immediately after a student has an anaphylactic reaction at school.

**It is the responsibility of the parent to:**

- provide the emergency procedures plan (ASCIA Action Plan).
  - inform the school if their child's medical condition changes, and if relevant provide an updated emergency procedures plan (ASCIA Action Plan).
  - Provide an EpiPen, Anapen or similar as described in ASCIA Plan.
- The Assistant principal will be responsible for ensuring that a communication plan is developed to provide information to all staff, students and parents about anaphylaxis and the school's anaphylaxis management policy.
  - The communication plan will include information about what steps will be taken to respond to an anaphylactic reaction by a student in a classroom, in the school yard, on school excursions, on school camps and special event days.
  - Casual relief staff aware of students at risk of anaphylaxis will be informed of students at risk of anaphylaxis and their role in responding to an anaphylactic reaction

**All staff will be anaphylaxis trained and will be briefed once each semester by a staff member who has up to date anaphylaxis management training on:**

- the school's anaphylaxis management policy
  - the causes, symptoms and treatment of anaphylaxis
  - the identities of students diagnosed at risk of anaphylaxis and where their medication is located
  - how to use an auto-adrenaline injecting device (EpiPen or AnaPen)
  - the school's first aid and emergency response procedures
- At other times while the student is under the care or supervision of the school, including excursions, yard duty, camps and special event days, the principal must ensure that there is a sufficient number of staff present who have up to date training in an anaphylaxis management training course.

**EVALUATION**

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year review cycle.